

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-15 and 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,068,548 ("Vote"). Claims 4, 5, 16, 17 and 25-30 were rejected as obvious over Vote, without a secondary reference.

The Examiner found the previous declaration ineffective because it was not signed by all inventors and had several typographic errors.

Claims 11 and 23 have been amended. As a result of this amendment, the invention of Lawrence M. Rosenberg is no longer being claimed. A request to delete Lawrence M. Rosenberg as an inventor is attached.

Enclosed is a declaration signed by inventors Steven M. Zuniga and Thomas H. Osterheld. In addition, the typographic errors have been addressed.

As shown by the enclosed declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, Applicant's claimed invention was conceived and actually reduced to practice prior to the filing date of Vote on December 17, 1997. Therefore, Vote does not constitute prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

The fee for the extension of time in the amount of \$1020 is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/1/06

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